

REMARKS:

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, 4 and 7-12 have been amended, and new claim 13 has been added. No new matter has been added. Thus, claims 1-13 are pending and under consideration. The rejections are traversed below.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a):

Claims 4, 5, 8, 10 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,555,369 (Menendez) and U.S. Patent No. 6,591,366 (Munker), and claims 1, 2, 7, 9 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Menendez and U.S. Patent No. 5,860,070 (Tow).

Menendez is directed to graphical editing of a picture using graphical slot editors. Menendez provides a browser for graphical editing of various view flags from which a user selects to apply editing changes (see, col. 10, lines 20-29). That is, Menendez is directed to modifying slots supplied by the system and adding a system-defined slot in response to a user selection for editing the picture using the graphical slot editors.

The Examiner acknowledges that Menendez does not disclose a group definition module, but relies on Munker as teaching the same. However, Munker is directed to initiating a loading of information with regard to hardware components when an application program is executed and checking if a user has authorization to initiate the loading of that particular application program (see, col. 5, lines 46-51).

The Examiner also acknowledges that Menendez does not explicitly disclose determining permission to embed the interface into the application program, but relies on Tow as teaching the same. However, Tow restricts use of keys identifying values in a database using a hashing technique. In Tow, particular keys of a database are selected to be locked out using the hashing technique such that insertion of rows/columns into the database is prevented without having to index each combination column of values (see, FIG. 3 and corresponding text).

In contrast, the present invention predetermines an interface that is usable with a component for developing an application program, and enables development of the application program. For example, a user is provided with a display of usable interfaces corresponding to a component selected by the user and the user is enabled to select from the displayed usable interfaces for developing the application program (see also, FIGS. 5 and 6 of the present application). That is, the present invention selectively provides interfaces that correspond to a

selected component and thereby reduces the amount of time associated with determining a usable layout for developing the application program.

Independent claim 1 as amended recites, "an interface selection module having said interface selected for said selected component, and setting whether said selected interface is permitted to be embedded into said application program or not in accordance with preset information indicative of usable interfaces corresponding to said selected component". Independent claims 4 and 7-12 as amended similarly recite that the present invention includes, "preset information indicative of usable interfaces among the plurality of interfaces corresponding to said selected component" according to which components are laid out for developing an application program.

Thus, the cited references, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest developing an application program including determining whether a selected interface is permitted to be embedded into the application program in accordance with "information indicative of usable interfaces" corresponding to the selected component as recited in independent claims 1, 4 and 7-12.

It is submitted that the independent claims are patentable over the cited references.

For at least the above-mentioned reasons, claims depending from independent claims 1, 4 and 7-12 are patentably distinguishable over the cited references. The dependent claims are also independently patentable. For example, as recited in claim 2, "said edit module supports the development of the program by use of said interface set to be permitted to be embedded into said application program in the specified set record or said interface that is not set to be inhibited to be embedded into said application program in the specified set record". The cited references do not teach or suggest a program development device including an edit module that supports development of a program using "said interface set to be permitted to be embedded into said application program in the specified set record or said interface that is not set to be inhibited to be embedded into said application program in the specified set record", as recited in claim 2.

Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

NEW CLAIM:

New claim 13 is added to recite that the present invention includes "associating at least one usable interface among the multiple interfaces with each of the components" and "displaying the at least one usable interface responsive to a selected component" to allow a user to select

from the permitted or displayed at least one usable interface.

The cited references, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest associating "at least one usable interface among the multiple interfaces with each of the components" and "displaying the at least one usable interface responsive to a selected component" such that a user is enabled to select a useable interface(s) therefrom.

CONCLUSION:

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.


Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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